

May 2020



The Parish Voice

First Lutheran Church
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
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A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Let's Get Together: Two New Online Gathering Opportunities

If you're like Pastor Jeff, you are missing gathering together in person. But with today's technology, there are possibilities for face to face gatherings. Using the Zoom platform, PJ has carved out two times during the week when people can come together online to connect with one another: each Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for *Tuesday Tea Time* and on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for *Thursday Coffee Clutch*.



"You don't actually have to drink tea or coffee at these gatherings," Pastor Jeff said. "The names are just designed to suggest the type of gathering they are – informal." He went on to say they would include a lot of chit chat about what is going on with each other. "You know, like you would do when you sit down over a cup of coffee with someone," he said. "It is simply a chance for us to get together with members of our faith community." He did add that he would conclude each gathering with a Biblical devotion and prayer, but that would be the only formal aspect.



With Zoom, everyone should be able to participate. Those with smart phones and computers equipped with cameras will be able to join via video and see the other participants. But anyone with access to a phone can join in by audio to hear and speak with others. Here are the instructions on how to access the meetings:

Tuesday Tea Time

via **computer or smartphone** use this link:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82956300588> use meeting ID **829 5630 0588** if needed, but the link above should take you right to it.

via **phone**: dial **(312) 626-6799** then when prompted enter meeting ID: **829 5630 0588**

Thursday Coffee Clutch

via **computer or smartphone** use this link:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83723658977> use meeting ID **837 2365 8977** if needed, but the link above should take you right to it.

via **phone**: dial **(312) 626-6799** then when prompted enter meeting ID: **837 2365 8977**

Immanuel Starts New Community Garden in Green Space

It's easy to see, through news or online images, of the long lines of people waiting for food in places like Pittsburgh, San Antonio, Miami or Chicago. We may not be able to provide direct assistance to them, but we can to families in need in our own backyard. For anyone in need of food, I am excited to announce a new initiative available to YOU or someone YOU know that is in need of growing food.

The Immanuel church council approved the use of a portion of the property west of the church for a community garden. With the challenges facing many families due to the coronavirus' effects, the ability to have food, fresh or purchased, should not be one of those challenges about which one anguishes. If you find yourself in this situation, know of someone in the greater Paw Paw, Lee, Sublette, West Brooklyn, Mendota area, or know a family hurting please have them contact John Hoelzer at 815.440.3358 from 7 – 9 pm to discuss planting seeds in your/their own garden plot at Immanuel Lutheran Church. This is a way for you/them to be self-sufficient in food needs this growing season.



WORSHIP

Worship Videos

Hopefully, most of you have had an opportunity to view the worship videos we've been producing. As long as the quarantine is in place, this will be our main vehicle for worship. We will have "live" opportunities to gather via the internet (*see articles on Tuesday Tea Time and Thursday Coffee Clutch*), but because videos can be made available through a variety of methods, we are able to reach just about all of our members.



Here are the ways to access the worship videos:

Internet

The main way to access the worship videos is via the internet. They are being posted to YouTube and the link is being sent out via *email, Facebook, and text message*. People using a computer or smartphone should be able to just tap on the link and view them immediately. For tech



savvy folks with smart TV's, there are various means of viewing them on your TV as well.

If you'd like, you can also subscribe to HOILP's YouTube channel and view the videos as soon as they're published. Just search for Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish on YouTube. When you find it, go to the channel and hit the subscribe button. Notices should be sent when a new video is published.



DVD

For those without a computer or smartphone, DVD's will be made available. Please send an email to immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com if you'd like to receive the worship videos via DVD.



Don't forget to hit the "share" button on Facebook and/or YouTube so that we can reach out to our friends and neighbors!

THANK YOU to everyone who has sung, played, read or provided liturgy for the worship videos!!! If you have not had a chance to help yet and would like to, please contact PJ via text, email or good ol' phone call.

Congregational Hymns

How many of you sing along with the hymns on the worship video? That's the hope. We can't be together, but our musicians can still lead us in singing. But you probably still feel something is lacking without the entire congregation singing.

Good news though. PJ and his son Alex have devised a method to virtually sing congregational hymns. It will take some volunteering on your part and a fair bit of technical details on their part, but it should be really fun.



The simplified version of the method is this: you send recordings of yourselves singing the hymns and they stitch them together on the computer to create a congregational hymn. It's a little more complicated by things such as people singing at different tempos. But they've devised a relatively easy method for everyone who wishes to join in the singing of our hymns. The only thing you need is a joy of singing and a set of earphones.

Instructions to Record Hymn for HOILP Choir at Home

1. Either make copies of the music or display it on your computer/tablet screen
2. Load music recording to your computer, mp3 player, or other device.
3. Insert earphones into the device you're listening to.
4. Open the app you use to record on your phone
 - a. Many phones have a built-in recording app.
 - b. If yours does not, free ones are easily found in your app store.
 - c. A good one for iPhones is "Recording HQ"
5. Press record on your phone
6. Press play on your listening device
7. Sing along with the music
 - a. Your entire family can sing along – they just have to follow whoever has the earphones on to keep the same rhythm
 - b. Or each person in the family can record separately
 - c. The more voices the merrier!
8. Stop the recording on your phone
9. Save the file and send it to PJ via either text message or email
 - a. Please send it by noon on Thursday
10. Listen in on Sunday to hear the HOILP Choir!

Instructions to Record Hymn at Church

1. Set an appointment with PJ to come in individually
2. Wear mask and bring hand sanitizer and earphones
3. Follow instructions PJ gives when you come in
4. Go home and listen in on Sunday to hear the HOILP Choir!

COMMUNICATION

Are you getting our emails about links to the worship video and other information? If not, we probably do not have your email or we have the wrong email for you. Please let either Debbie (Immanuel) or Deb (First) know what your current email.

What about text messages – are you getting them? That may be because we don't have your mobile number. Please consider sending that as well so we can use this means of communication also.

These means of communication become much more important now that we are unable to meet in person.

- Immanuel – immanuel@lutherancompton.com
- First – deb@poterek.com

*****Please know that HOILP will not share your personal information with outside organizations or individuals*****

Our goal is to keep all communications lines open with you.



Please note that HOILP has its own YouTube channel. Worship videos will now be posted there rather than on PJ's channel. Please subscribe to this channel to stay up to date on our videos.

OFFERINGS

Thank you to all who have made a point of sending in their offerings during this shelter in place period. Even though we aren't gathering, our pastor and staff are still working hard, and there are still utility bills and upkeep expenses to take care of with the buildings.

If you are a bit behind in your offerings since we haven't gathered for worship, please consider sending them in via mail or using an electronic means to donate.

Both congregations now have donation buttons on their websites through which you can use your credit or debit card to make your donations. If you'd like to give this way, you can use the QR codes below or go to www.flcinlee.com or www.ilccompton.org.



First
Lutheran



Immanuel
Lutheran

This month's benevolence offering is for Immanuel's scholarship fund.

COUNCIL

Joint Council Meeting – April 1, 2020

- Did a check in with one another.
- Discussed worship videos.
- Decided pastor and the two council presidents will make decisions regarding cancelling/reopening between council meetings.
- Discussed communion plans for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday.

Immanuel Church Office

Starting May 1st Debbie will be in the church office from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday-Friday until we get back to a normal schedule. She will be working from home in the afternoon. If you need anything, call or text her at 815-866-6690 or email the church: www.immanuel@lutherancompton.com.

Vacation Bible Camp at Immanuel is postponed from its scheduled June dates. More info will come next month.

Immanuel Council Highlights – April 16, 2020

- General Treasury ending balance March 31, 2020 is \$10,383.36
- Helping Hands Program
- Virtual Church services highlights
- Vacation Bible School Schedule
- Community Garden plots suggestion
- SBA Loan Discussion
- Next council meeting May 14 by internet

Special Church Council Meeting @ First – April 14, 2020

- Approved application for SBA Payroll Protection Loan in the amount of \$9,950.07
- Appointed Jim Johnson as financial officer of the congregation, authorizing him to sign loan documents on behalf of the congregation

SERVING OUR NEIGHBOR

N.I.C.E. Center Update

The N.I.C.E. Center in Lee is open to our clients via drive-thru grocery pick-up only. No one is allowed into the building except N.I.C.E. board members and a very limited number of volunteers. We ask that you hold your donations to the Center until further notice – after the Covid-19 pandemic is under control. ***If you wish to donate canned goods, paper goods, hand/dish/laundry soaps, and/or cleaning supplies, please contact your church's representative to plan pick-up/delivery. Please hold on to clothing items until further notice.***

Families served during the Covid-19 pandemic:
March 14: 28, March 21: 26, March 28: 19,
April 4: 29, April 11: 20

We have served 10 new families during this time. Our food supply is sufficient, our paper products are diminishing.

HOILP Bountiful Gardens



Once again this year, our parish is sponsoring a Bountiful Garden Program by which members donate fresh produce to the church

for delivery to the local food pantries and/or direct to school children. Last year, we delivered to Mendota and Lee pantries and to Paw Paw Schools as well as direct to families when a name was provided. A big thank you to all members who donated from their garden or with dry/canned goods in lieu of a garden. Though we cannot have a sign-up sheet in the overflow, I ask for even more members to participate and share your bounty with the community in need. At current, we plan to have two collection Sundays per month starting in July. Look to our newsletter for more information including a way to non-publicly notify us of a family in need.

Maybe you wanted to participate in the bountiful garden program last year, but did not have a garden, NOW you can through the community garden project.

Let's all work together to help our fellow neighbors thrive more than survive.



The benefit for Whitley Clayton has been rescheduled
June 13, 2020
as a street dance in Paw Paw
Check out Facebook for details and updates

Tomato Plants Available

Remember PJ's tomato seeding video from his Easter service (if you don't – check it out at the new HOILP YouTube channel!)? Well, he's pleased as could be to brag that they are blooming and blooming like crazy. It took 17 days before the first plant pushed it's way above the surface, but now they are growing like... tomato seedlings.



These plants are available for you to plant this summer. You can have as many as you'd like. FREE! Don't have a garden? Feel free to grab a couple and plant them alongside your house or garage. Make sure they get some sun, water them every so often, and before you know it, you'll have plenty of tomatoes. He will be happy to deliver them to you. Just let him know. But the stipulation is this: you get to keep half the tomatoes and are asked to donate the other half to a local food pantry, our "Bountiful Garden" program, or some other worthy food charity.

Applications for **Immanuel's Scholarship Fund** are now available. Contact Debbie in the church office if you are interested and an application will be mailed to you. Deadline is June 15.

WELCA

May WELCA Events have been cancelled for this month. Please watch for updates.

JUSTICE (Mission Action) - Charlene Zimmerman

The **2020 WELCA Bakeless Bake Sale** is here. Your donations would be appreciated to help WELCA with their year-end benevolences such as: World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, N.I.C.E., Horizon House, Lutheran Social Services and others.

If we are still unable to worship together in May, please put your check payable to WELCA in the enclosed envelope and mail it to the church with your regular offering, or place it in the designated box marked "Bakeless Bake Sale" in the overflow. Thank you for your consideration.

WELCA PRESIDENT'S DESK - Sarah Pfeifer

The Central Conference Spring Brunch scheduled for May 15 has been cancelled. There are patterns & mask material in the sewing room down in the basement for those interested in making masks.

Flower Donations

A special thank you to the following people who provided Easter lilies and tulips:

- Allan & Charlene Zimmerman – In memory of loved ones
- Sarah Pfeifer – In memory of loved ones
- Rosina Bittner – To the Glory of God in memory of loved ones
- Dwight & Margaret Frick – In memory of loved ones
- Roger & Carol Kern – In memory of loved ones
- Fran Sellers – In memory of loved ones
- Pastor Jeff & Theresa Schlesinger – In memory of loved ones
- Sarah Goetz – To the glory of God
- Mary Ellen Schroeder – In memory of Family Dwelling in God's House
- Christa Edwards – In memory of loved ones
- Kevin & Kim Ganz – In memory of loved ones
- Donna Ganz-Bauer – In memory of loved ones



First Lutheran suspended their Easter flower donations for the year.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer Corner

Homebound – Joan Benner, Harold Schlesinger, Arlene Archer, Nathan Eich, Gene Williams, Marilyn Ward, Phyllis Larsen

Monthly Requests – Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ron Rebholz, Ed & Joan Benner

Newly Baptized –

Affirmed in Baptism - (November 24, 2019) Cyndie Prodzenski, Caytlin Prodzenski, Shayne Prodzenski

Mourning Families - Sarah Fassig Family (6/22), Christy Lilja Family (8/3), Marilyn Goetz Family (8/5), Keith Eich Family (8/31), Jean Albert Family (9/9), Dorothy Burkart Family (9/13), Donna Albers Family (9/22), Lucy Nicholson Family (10/14), Paul Albers Family (11/26), Paul Betz Family (12/11)

Our Leaders - ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, HOILP Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

May Birthdays

- 1 – Kristen Edecker, Katie Kessen
- 2 – Sharon Kellen, Carson Walzer
- 3 – Don Rebholz, Emily Lovett
- 6 – Brian Walzer
- 7 – Leesa Fitch, Diane Musgrove
- 8 – Kim Ganz
- 9 – Chuck Sellers
- 12 – Cliff Schlesinger, Trisha Walzer, Nick Bittner
- 13 – Ed Benner, William L. Bittner
- 15 – Conrad Fassig
- 17 – Kevin Swope, James Sensenbrenner
- 18 – Flo Wasserfort
- 19 – Beth Post
- 22 – Alexis Kay Knoblauch
- 23 – Duane Bettner, Eddie Hardison
- 24 – Santiago Delgado
- 25 – Julie Lovett
- 26 – Eric Musgrove, Shayne Prodzenski
- 27 – Aaron Sester
- 29 – Austyn Rebholz
- 31 – Theodore Wm. Spickerman

May Anniversaries

- 1 – Bud & Arlene Archer
- 5 – Craig & Connie Ganz
- 7 – Don & Debbie Rebholz
- 9 – Don & Gay Sellers
- 15 – Ron & Melissa Blum
- 20 – Mike & Theresa Taylor
- 31 – Paul & Sandra Heiman

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(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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Compton, Illinois
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Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship services have been
suspended through the
month of May.
See inside for a variety of
worship opportunities.

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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You can also check us out on Facebook!